

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising the steps:

- receiving information by the sending network node implying ~~regarding~~ a blocking time while transmitting a data burst;
- waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and
- transmitting a subsequent [the] data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising transmitting a remaining blocking time of a connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising transmitting to the sending network node both:

- the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or the blocking time until the beginning of the available connection, and
- the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11[12], wherein the blocking time and the remaining connection time for a connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the sending network node sends a reservation request via the switching device to the receiving network node.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein a desired length of time until a subsequent data burst is sent in the reservation request.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data burst is transmitted via a plurality of switching devices.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein each switching device determines and transmits the longest remaining blocking time to the next switching device or the receiving network node.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein during an acknowledgement signal the receiving end node sends the remaining time till an available connection to the sending network node via the switching devices and the switching devices reserve the transmission capacity.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the reserved transmission capacity is based on the remaining time information.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the data bursts are transmitted over an optical data network.

21. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

~~receiving information by the sending network node regarding a blocking time;~~  
~~waiting for expiration of the blocking time;~~  
~~transmitting the data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node;~~  
~~transmitting a remaining blocking time of an available connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node; and~~  
~~transmitting to the sending network node;~~

~~the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or the blocking time until the beginning of an available connection, and~~

~~the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection are transmitted to the sending network node.~~

transmitting to the sending network node information including the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or a blocking time of the existing connection until the beginning of an available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection;

receiving said information by the sending network node implying the blocking time while transmitting a data burst;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

transmitting a subsequent data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the blocking time is the time duration till the next permissible data burst transmission.

23. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting [a] data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

~~receiving information by the sending network node regarding a blocking time;~~

~~waiting for expiration of the blocking time;~~

~~transmitting the data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node;~~

~~transmitting a remaining blocking time of an available connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node; and~~

~~transmitting to the sending network node the point in time of the beginning of an available connection, and the duration of the available connection.~~

transmitting to the sending network node information containing the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or a remaining blocking time of an existing connection, and the duration of the available connection;

receiving said information by the sending network node said information implying the  
blocking time while transmitting a data burst  
waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and  
then transmitting a subsequent data burst from the sending network node to the receiving  
network node.